

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 160118
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:MR. MOOSE

APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON

S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 160118

EXDIS AMUASSADOR UOWDLER FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDIP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS FOR AMB. LOW

1. AS SOON AS YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH STEVE LOW, I
WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO REVIEW WITH HIM OUR CURRENT THINKING
REGARDING HIS ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS.

2. OUR THOUGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IN LIGHT OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY NKOMO AND MWALE
AND GIVEN SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT LOW WOULD HAVE ANYTHING
POSITIVE TO REPORT TO KAUNDA ON THE TALKS WITH SMITH, WE
NOW QUESTION THE UTILITY OF LOW SEEKING TO TALK WITH
KAUNDA AFTER SALISBURY.

(B) OUR OVERRIDING INTEREST AT THIS POINT IS HAVING STEVE
LOW JOIN US HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR WHAT APPEARS TO
BE AN ESSENTIAL REASSESSMENT OF OUR FUTURE STRATEGY.

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(C) WE THINK IT IS A TOSSUP WHETHER ANYBODY NEEDS TO SEE
MUGABE OR NOT. IF GRAHAM WANTS TO DO IT WE HAVE NO PAR-
TICULAR FEELINGS. A MEETING WITH MUGABE MIGHT POSSIBLY
HAVE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON NKOMO BUT I AM NOT SURE
ABOUT THAT.

(D) GIVEN FOREGOING, WE SUGGEST THAT STEVE RETURN TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AND DIRECTLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER SALISBURY. IF FOR PERSONAL REASONS HE NEEDS TO GO BACK THROUGH LUSAKA WE UNDERSTAND. WE DOUBT THAT STEVE NEEDS TO SPEND MUCH TIME IN LONDON, BUT IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF HIS SEEING OWEN WITH GRAHAM OR HAVING OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONSULTATION, WE LEAVE THAT TO STEVE'S JUDGMENT. WE WOULD NOT WANT HIM TO SPEND ANY MORE THAN A DAY IN LONDON AT MOST.

3. PLEASE ADVISE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING STEVE'S PLANS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, AMBASSADORS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE160118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. MOOSE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770244-1147
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770773/aaaacmbg.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 383ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1911307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL PLANS FOR AMB. LOW
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, OTRA, RH, SWAPO, (LOW, STEPHEN), (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/383ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009